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TWO IMPORTANT STAFF POSITIONS FILLED - FCC APPOINTMENTS
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WASHINGTON

Mark S. Fowler of the Federal Communications Commission said Friday he had filled two of the agency's most important staff positions, including a new chief for the FCC bureau that regulates the telephone industry.

Fowler said he had appointed Albert Halprin, a former top deputy of the Common Carrier Bureau, to become the bureau's new chief. The current chief, Jack D. Smith, will become the agency's general counsel, he said.

Both appointments will be effective the first week in October.

The shifts were prompted by the recent resignation of general counsel Bruce E. Fein. The FCC said Friday that Fein is leaving for a legal position with the CIA.

The personnel changes were described as an effort by Fowler to buttress the FCC's staff in telephone regulation. The commission is facing an extremely heavy agenda of telephone issues the rest of the year, including a final decision on whether consumers should pay special "access charges" to their local phone companies.

Halprin, until he left the agency in April 1983 to establish his own consulting firm, was considered one of the FCC's top telephone experts and the architect of various deregulation policies.

By wooing Halprin back to the agency and moving Smith to the post of general counsel, Fowler has assured the commission it will have a team of common carrier experts on the staff.

"Jack Smith's stewardship of the Common Carrier Bureau during this tumultuous period exemplifies the highest standards of public service," Fowler said. "I look forward to his continued wise counsel as the agency's top lawyer."

"And it is important that the transition between bureau chiefs be smooth and fast," he added. "With Bert's broad background...the commission and the industry can be assured that the many important issues before the bureau will be resolved without any delay."

Smith, a 1974 graduate of the George Washington University School of Law, became the chief of the Common Carrier Bureau in July 1983 after holding a variety of legal and policy posts with the commission during the preceding nine years.

Halprin is a 1974 graduate of Harvard Law School who worked for several federal and Massachusetts state agencies before he joined the FCC in 1980.